Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04599 201554Z

47

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CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 4599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOMEPORTING SUBGROUP

REF: STATE 144504

1. SWE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE NEED OF THE U.S. NAVY TO HAVE GREEK PORTS OPENED TO NORMAL SHIP VISIT, BUT BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE CAN BEST BE ATTAINED BY GIVING IT SOMEWHAT LESS PROMINENCE IN OUR HOMEPORTING DISCUSSION (REFTEL). THE ESSENTIAL FACT IS THAT THE GREEK NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS, MUCH LESS TO AUTHORIZE, NORMALIZATION OF SHIP VISITS ACROSS-THEBOARD. THIS IS APOLITICAL DECISION THAT WILL BE MADE, WHEN IT IS MADE, BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. WE BELIEVE THE STRESS IN SUB-GROUP NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04599 201554Z

OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF ELEFSIS PIER IN THE CONTEXT

OF ASSURED USE OF IT. A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SHIP DAYS OF USAGE WOULD BE A REASONABLE EXPECTATION ON OUR PART, AND ONE WHICH GREEK NEGOTIATIORS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND. LINKING THE DISCUSSION OF FUTURE USE OF THE PIER TO ADDITIONAL SHIP VISITS IN PHALERON BAY OR ELSEWHERE IN GREECE COULD WELL PREJUDICE ADVERSELY WHATEVER CHANCE WE HAVE OF SECURING CONTINUED USAGE RIGHTS AT ELEFSIS.

3. UNLESS DEPARTMENT DISAGREES, WE INTEND TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON ELEFSIS PIER AND OTHER ASPECTS OF HOMEPORTING TERMINATION, FOR OUR OBJECTIVE OF RETURNING TO A NORMAL SHIP VISIT PROGRAM WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS FRONT. KUBISCH

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